## URBAN DISTRICT OF CANVEY ISLAND

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

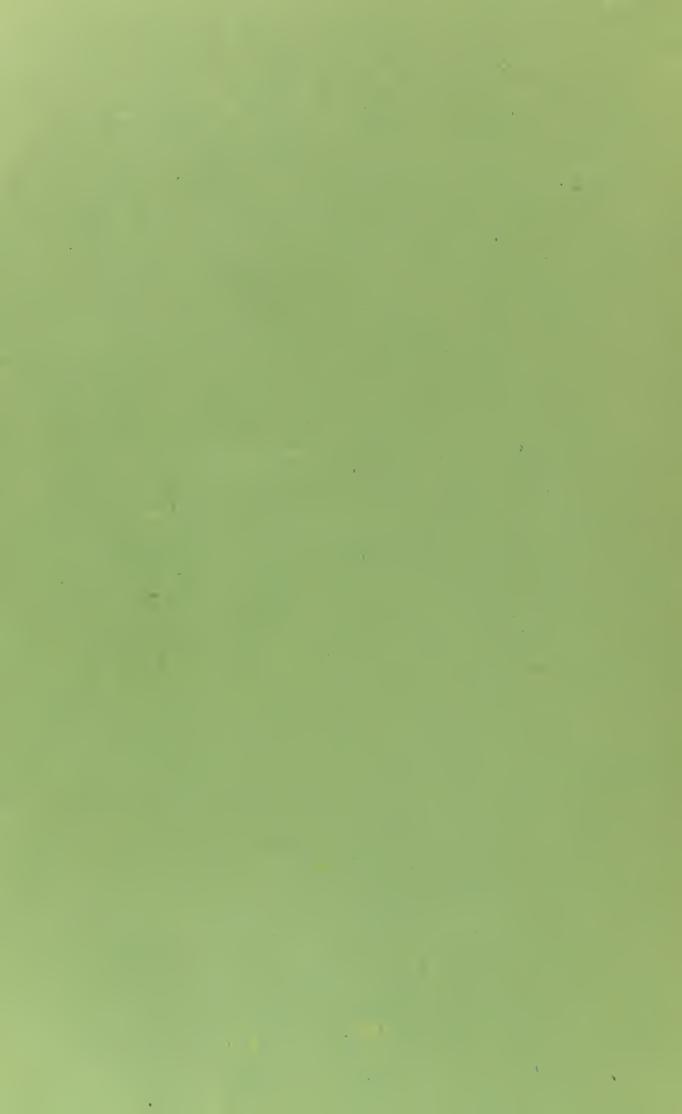
# MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Norman Lorraine, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., F.R.S.E.)

including THE REPORT of the Sanitary Inspector

(C. A. KORTEGAS, M.S.I.A.)

for 1946



# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1946

Public Health Department,

London Road,

Hadleigh, Essex.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Canvey Island.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Eighteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1946.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 13/47 of the 13th March, 1947, this report is prepared on the lines of that for 1945 as indicated in Ministry of Health Circular 28/46 dated 11th February, 1946, and is intended to be an interim report.

With the appointment of Mr. C. A. Kortegas in February, 1946, to the position of Sanitary Inspector, which post became vacant with the resignation of the previous Sanitary Inspector in May, 1945, the work of sanitary inspection on the Island has been satisfactory.

Throughout the year, the sympathetic consideration and assistance of the Council have been a great help.

I am especially indebted to all members of the staff of the Department for their loyal co-operation and assistance.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN LORRAINE, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., F.R.S.E., D.P.H., R.C.P.S. (Edin.) & R.F.P.S. (Glas).

July, 1947.

## SECTION "A"—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) comprising Island, Foreshore and T	idal	
Waters	• • •	9,071
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1946 (acc	ord-	
ing to Rate Book)		3,900
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	• • •	9,103
Rateable Value		£44,300
Sum represented by a penny rate		£170

In the above and following statistics, several routine details are omitted, as non-essential.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Total	M.	F.	
Live Births:			207	103	104	Birth Rate per 1,000
Legitimate	• • •	• • •	186	93	93	of the estimated
Illegitimate	•••	•••	21	10	11	resident population = 22.7
Still Births:	• • •		6	4	2	Rate per 1,000 total
Legitimate			5	3	2	(live and still) births
Illegitimate		• • •	1	1		= 28.1
Deaths:	•••	•••	126	69	57	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population = 13.8
Deaths from p	uerper	al ca	uses:			
Puerp	eral s	epsis		• • •	• •	<del>-</del>
Other	mater	mal	causes			1
Death Rate of	Infan	ts un	ider or	ге уеа	ar of a	ge:
Total nur	nber o	f inf	ant de	aths		7
All infant	s per I	1,000	live l	oirths	• • •	33.8
Legitimat	e infan	its pe	er 1,00	00 leg	itimate	e live births 26.9
Illegitima	te infa	nts p	per 1,0	00 ill	egitima	ate live births 95.2

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	Rate por resident p		Deaths under one year per 1,000
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes	registered live births
England and Wales	19.1	11.5	43
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (in cluding London)  148 Smaller Towns Resident Population	22.2	12.7	46
25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census	21.3	11.7	37
London Adm. County	21.5	12.7	41
Canvey Island U.D	22.7	13.8	34

It will be noted that the Infant Mortality Rate is considerably lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales. The Birth Rate is similar to the high level reached by the Urban District in 1942. The Death Rate compares favourably with the rest of the Country.

#### TABLE OF BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Infant Mortality Year Birth Rate Death Rate Rate 1942 22.736.5 13.4 1943 20.3 17.1 75.0 1944 19.6 14.0 67.1 1945 17.210.4 43.7 1946 22.7. . . 13.8 33.8

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DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES DURING 1946.

) ma		Deaths		Number of
$\Lambda \mathrm{ge}$	Number in District	Outward Transfers	Inward Transfers	of deaths which apply to District
Under 1 year	1		6	7
1 and under 2				
[2, ,, 5]		-	1	1
5 ,, ,, $15$		_	1	1
15 ,, ,, 25	3	_	1	4
25 ,, ,, 35	2	1.	2	3
35 ,, ,, 45	2		1	3
45 ,, ,, 55	7	1	4	10
55 ,, ,, 65	11		17	28
65 ,, ,, 75	22	2	7	27
75 and upwards	35	3	10	42
TOTALS	83	7	50	126

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF CANVEY ISLAND DURING 1946.

			Male	Female	Total
	All causes		69	57	126
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers		_	<del></del>	
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever		_	_	_
3.	Scarlet Fever				
4.	Whooping Cough		_	_	_
5.	Diphtheria		_	_	_
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system		3	4	7
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis	•••	1	_	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases		_	2	2
9.	Influenza	• • •	1		1
10.	Measles		_		_
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio ence		_	_	_
12.	Acute infective encephalitis				_
13.	Cancer of buc: cav: and oesoph				
	uterus (F)		1	3	4
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum		1	3	4
15.	Cancer of breast		_	1	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites		5	6	11
17.	Diabetes	•••	_	_	_
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions		10	3	13
19.	Heart disease		26	19	45
20.	Other diseases of circulatory syste	m	_	1	1
21.	Bronchitis		6	1	7
22.	Pneumonia		_	1	1
23.	Other respiratory diseases		_	1	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum		1	1	2
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	• • •	_	—	_
26.	Appendicitis	• • •	_	_	_
27.	Other digestive diseases	• • •	2	1	3
28.	Nephritis	• • •	_	1	1
29.	Puer: and post-abort: sepsis	• • •	_		
30.	Other maternal causes	• • •		1	$\frac{1}{2}$
31.	Premature birth	• • •	1 1	1 1	$\frac{2}{2}$
32. 33.	Con: mal: birth inj: infant: dis Suicide	• • •	1	1	4
34.	Road traffic accident	• • •	3		3
35.	Other violent causes	* * *	$\frac{3}{2}$	1	3
36.	All other causes		5	5	10
,,,,,				~	

## SECTION "B"—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

In respect of (a) Laboratory facilities, (b) Ambulance facilities, (c) Nursing in the Home, (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics, and (e) Hospitals, there are no essential changes to note.

#### SECTION "C"—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The water supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

Weekly samples of the raw and daily samples of the treated water as supplied to this District are examined by the Southend Waterworks Company's Resident Chemist and Bacteriologist, as well as quarterly samples by a Consulting Chemist. The results have shown consistently a water of normal chemical character and good bacteriological quality.

The water is not considered to be plumbo-solvent.

As there was no contamination in the water supplied from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains no action in respect thereof was necessary.

2,880 houses were connected to the Company's mains at 31st December, 1946. This is an increase of 109 over the figure at 31st December, 1945.

297 houses are provided with mains water by means of standpipes situated in various parts of the Island.

Drainage and Sewerage. There are 595 connections to the sewer affecting 1,115 properties. 34 connections were made during 1946 affecting 57 properties.

Visits and Inspections. 1,200 visits were made for Public Health purposes. 120 Preliminary Notices were served of which 99 were complied with at the end of the year. 22 Statutory Notices were served of which 11 were complied with by the end of 1946.

Petroleum (Regulations) Acts, 1928 and 1936. Nine licences were issued during the year.

Factories Act, 1937. There were at the end of 1946, five factories in use in this District comprising:—

One Clothing Factory.
One Ship-building Yard.

One Factory manufacturing articles with steel wire.

One Factory manufacturing radio components. One Factory manufacturing sheet metal articles.

During the year one factory was found to be overcrowded and this was reported to H.M. Inspector of Factories. The owner vacated the premises and moved to a larger building.

Suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences are provided for persons employed in the above factories.

20 inspections were carried out at factories during the period under review, and two informal notices were served.

#### SECTION "D"—HOUSING.

23 new houses were erected during the year 1946. 167 inspections were made in respect of repairs carried out under the Housing Acts.

#### SECTION "E"—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply. At the end of the year six farms and other premises used as Dairies were registered and 20 retail purveyors were also registered.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936 to 1946. Two licences to sell pasteurised milk and two licences to sell tuberculin tested milk were granted during the year. These were Supplementary Licences for the retail sale of the milks mentioned above, in the Canvey Island Urban District.

Meat and Other Foods. There are no Slaughterhouses in the District.

Butchers' shops are periodically inspected and meat therein examined.

The facts and figures shown under Sections C, D and E have been provided by the Sanitary Inspector.

## SECTION "F"—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

As will be seen from the table on Page 10, very few cases of notifiable infectious diseases occurred during 1946 and it would appear that the general health of the Island has maintained a high standard.

There was the usual seasonal incidence of measles which however, was about half that for 1945. The number of cases of Infective Hepatitis which although low, showed an increase on the previous year. In connection with this disease, which became notifiable in this area under the Jaundice Regulations, 1943, a memorandum has been drawn up by me for issue to each household where a case occurs, and a copy is shown on page 11.

It is gratifying to notice that according to the figures of the Registrar-General, there were no deaths from the usual notifiable infectious diseases during the year.

Returning Service personnel from abroad for demobilisation became associated with numerous cases of Smallpox whilst en route for the United Kingdom on the various troopships and 12 possible contacts of this disease who were destined for Canvey Island were notified during the early part of 1946. There was also one contact living on the Island of the case of severe Smallpox which occurred in the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea in March, 1946. Investigations were made and surveillance kept of all these persons and I am glad to report that no case occurred locally.

With regard to the outbreak of Smallpox in the Thurrock Urban District in February, 1946, there were no contacts who resided on Canvey Island.

There were two persons reported in August, 1946, as contacts of Typhus who, after arrival in this country by air from France, had proceeded to Canvey Island. Careful observation was kept and there were no developments.

Tuberculosis. I am unaware whether the incidence of this disease can be associated with any local cause or condition. However, it is pleasing to note that the number of cases notified for the first time during the year was fewer than the figure for 1945. The majority of cases are among emigrants from the Greater London area and are either brought to notice as Transfers into the District under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, or by formal notification locally for the first time.

During 1946 10 cases were notified locally as hereunder:—

		Male	Female	e	Total
Pulmonary	• • •	3	 3	• • •	6
Non-pulmonary		2	 2	• • •	4

The following cases transferred into the District and were notified during the year:—

in jeur	Male	Female		Total
Pulmonary	 4	 2		6
Non-pulmonary	 2	 _	• • •	2

It is regretted that during the year there were 8 deaths from Tuberculosis and these are listed as follows:—

	Male	Female	3	Total
Pulmonary	 3	 4		7
Non-pulmonary	 1	 		1

Scabies. Only one case was brought to notice by formal notification under the Scabies Order, 1941, and treatment was given by the medical practitioner concerned.

Venereal Disease. Regulation 33B does not come within the purview of the Local Sanitary Authority.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Although the scheme continues to function satisfactorily, the migratory nature of the population adds to local difficulties.

There was a slight decrease in the number of children immunised during the year, and the percentage of all children immunised showed a decrease on that for 1945. This latter is largely due to the estimated child population being relatively much higher than in previous years together with rather increased losses due to the up-grading process which is necessary in order to keep the numbers of children immunised at any time within the prescribed age limit of 0—14 years.

At the end of December, 1946, the percentage of child population considered to be immunised was as follows:—

Under 5 years 47.3%

5-14 years 59.9%

General. The question of appointing a Deputy Medical Officer of Health was considered by the appropriate Committees before the recent War, but owing to the uncertainty of the future at the material time and the shortage of medical man-power, it was decided that the matter should be deferred for the time being.

In October, 1946, I again drew the attention of my three local Authorities to the urgent necessity of appointing a permanent Deputy to act for me when I was unable to act, and Dr. J. H. Crosby, M.B., D.P.H., Assistant County Medical Officer to the Essex County Council, was, with the knowledge and approval of the County Medical Officer, subsequently nominated for the appointment, and at a meeting of a Composite Committee on the 16th December, 1946, with representatives from each Local Sanitary Authority, Dr. Crosby was recommended for the appointment of Deputy Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Districts of Benfleet, Canvey Island and Rayleigh.

Whilst awaiting ratification by each of the Local Authorities concerned (which was ultimately given) and thereafter the approval of the Essex County Council, before application was made to the Minister of Health for confirmation of the appointment, information was received on the 28th February, 1947, that Dr. Crosby had, in the meantime, been appointed as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Chingford and would therefore be unable to accept the post of Deputy Medical Officer of Health for my three Local Authorities.

I consider that this matter should again receive urgent attention in view of the nature of my many commitments and all-round increase of work, as soon as a suitably qualified Medical Officer becomes available. In my view, he should be in possession of the Diploma of Public Health or corresponding qualification.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1946.

					ı							ı	ı				
				Jases	inelu	ded	Cases included in Weekly Returns	eekly	Ret	urns					st	Sex	×
. L. C. L. C. L.			-	_	_	At ,	Ages	-		-	-	-			[tsəC		
Disease	At all ages	0 to	- 2 ca	2 C 2 22	ස <b>ද</b> 4	4 0 v	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and o	Cases a to Hos	I fstoT	M.	E.
Scarlet Fever	21				7		-									7	-
Diphtheria										_				<del></del>			<del>-</del>
Measles	99	7	9	$\infty$	6	6	31	<b>—</b>	1	<del>)</del> (				1		35	31
Acute Pneumonia	63	ĺ		1	7								<b>,</b>		1	÷1	
Erysipelas												-				i	port
Infective Hepatitis	12				~		ನಾ	ગ	_	4	7			1		9	တ
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	_	_						1	i	j	j	i		1	1		Post
				١	l	١	l	l	l	l			١				

## URBAN DISTRICTS OF BENFLEET, CANVEY ISLAND AND RAYLEIGH.

#### CATARRHAL JAUNDICE, OR INFECTIVE HEPATITIS.

This disease is a notifiable infectious disease in this area and, accordingly, your local medical attendant is bound to advise me as soon as he becomes aware of the occurrence of a case.

At present it is occurring widely throughout Europe and the Mediterranean area and it is believed to be caused by an infective agent which has so far not been isolated.

The infectivity of the disease is low among the general population but it can be spread fairly readily, though slowly, among the community.

It is rarely fatal but it is unpleasant and may incapacitate the unfortunate victim for some weeks.

All the experts are agreed that, as sources of infection, there has been no cause to suspect water, or milk supplies or foodstuffs, nor can the infection have been spread by animals. Patients infected must have close contact with other persons who either were suffering from the disease or had just recovered. Most of the patients where epidemics have occurred have been under the care of private doctors and it was found that confinement to bed for a few days with restriction of fats and as much an increase of sugar as is possible was entirely effective.

It is probable that the infection is spread by droplets but no proof of this has so far been found, and the spread of infection may well be from the bowels conveyed by the fingers.

Precautions. After persons in the same household attend to the patient, strict cleanliness should be observed by them such as washing the hands with a disinfectant soap or using some disinfectant solution which can be provided, on request, free of charge, through the Sanitary Inspector's Department of the Council concerned. Any sanitary defects in the house should be brought to the notice of the Sanitary Inspector when he calls.

Schoolchildren. Contacts living in the same household where the disease exists need not be kept away from school unless they show evidence of vomiting or any unusual symptoms in which case you should consult your own Doctor.

N. S. R. LORRAINE, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department, London Road, Hadleigh, Essex. February, 1946.

